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SESSION OF FRIDAY EVENING
DECEMBER 14, 1909

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY,
DR. L. S. ROWE, IN INTRODUCING HIS EXCEL-
LENCY THE CHINESE MINISTER,
DR. WU TING-FANG

In an address delivered in 1853 by William H. Seward, then a Senator of the United States, we find these prophetic words: "The Pacific Ocean, its shores, its islands and the vast regions beyond, will become the chief theater of events in the world's great hereafter." This clear vision of our leading statesman at a comparatively early period in our history is to be explained by the fact that our relations with the countries of Asia started out in a blaze of glory, and it looked for a time as if, both commercially and politically, we would place ourselves in closer touch with China and Japan than any of the nations of Europe.

Through a curious combination of circumstances, our position in the Far East suffered a partial eclipse immediately after the Civil War. The American flag, which up to that time had been an important factor in the Pacific, almost disappeared, and it was not until the outbreak of the Chinese-Japanese War that the interest of the American people and the policy of our government were again attracted to the Far East. The results of the Spanish-American War served to make this interest more definite and to give it a clearly defined purpose. With the acquisition of the Philippine Islands, the United States became the immediate neighbor both of China and Japan, which served to impress upon the American people the fact that the great and fundamental forces of world politics have shifted from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and that it is among the nations of the Great Ocean that the future of human progress is to be determined.

Up to the present time our policy in the Far East has been determined by high and lofty purposes. With the new and complex situation which has arisen, the public opinion of our country stands bewildered, earnestly seeking guidance. Any new light

on the present situation means a real service to our country. We must all, therefore, feel a special sense of gratitude that during these, the last days of his stay in the United States, His Excellency the Chinese Minister, Dr. Wu Ting-fang, has made the sacrifice to come to Philadelphia to speak to us on "The Significance of the Awakening of China."